

SAPC-17907
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25 July 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit to Eastman on 24 July 1957

REFERENCE: SAPC-17678, 19 July 1957

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1. On 24 July 1957, discussions were undertaken at Rochester with the representatives of Eastman Kodak: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Operations, and [REDACTED] and Reber. 25X1A

Exploration of Film Quality:

2. a. Background: A week ago Project personnel indicated in the referenced memorandum delivered to HTA original negatives and positives for examination and comparison. The first of these, SO 1153, is that currently in use in both A and B configurations. The second film is SO 1182, a film as yet untried in the Project and not heretofore considered for Project use because it could not meet the specifications outlined in the original parameters of the problem. The full afternoon of 24 July was devoted to examining the question of whether operational conditions faced today might permit the use of this film with its specific qualities and whether those qualities were capable of satisfying photo interpretation needs better than the current film, SO 1153. 25X1A5a1

b. The principal conclusion on this question, based upon HTA examination, fuller explanation by [REDACTED] and comments from representatives of Operations, was that the new film, SO 1182, showed great promise and that testing should proceed as rapidly as feasible, such testing to follow a test of pattern to be submitted by EK to Operations. Expectations are

that SO 1182 properly exposed and processed will produce an image of higher resolution, finer grain, and higher acutepess, and that shadow detail will not be blocked as it tended to be in the case of the test strip examined by HTA. It is understood that to achieve detail in the shadows it will probably be necessary to use either a #3 filter or none instead of the #12 as is current practice with SO 1153. This will not only provide more exposure, required because the film speed is 1/4th of that of SO 1153, but will also permit entrance of blue light into the shadows thereby illuminating detail therein. New tests at EK suggest strongly that the original purpose of the yellow filter to cut haze is of doubted validity, and the removal of the yellow filter is not likely to have perceptible affect on negative quality. To meet the requirements of the test, [REDACTED] will look at once into the availability of B and C cameras, including removal of the filter coating, insertion of a #3 filter in a filter drawer as applicable, reduction of the speed of the shutter in the A 2 from 200 to 100, and the availability of planes in the face of an existing priority test schedule embracing five items.

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c. In regard to the foregoing, it was learned that since last Thursday EK had instituted a crash program to produce thin base SO 1182 in response to the requirement laid on them by [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

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[REDACTED] for forty rolls. It was their expectation that barring untoward developments the first materials would be available by 11 August. (Without presuming to judge the importance of the current testing program, vis-a-vis this test program, since I know nothing of the former, it would be my feeling that if at all possible Eastman's promptness in regard to producing new material should not be rewarded by extended delays in testing although there is the possibility of a much more important reason to avoid delay. If [REDACTED] missions are successful in being undetected, and if the results of the test meet expectations, it might be extremely important to use the new film in new missions against highly significant targets.

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d. Attention was called to delays and hazards in processing arising from failure of the field to properly identify raw materials received by Eastman along with the fact that if at all possible factors pertaining when film is exposed ^{care} and known to Eastman before processing, could have a favorable affect on negative quality.

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Such factors include sun angle at different points, cloud conditions, terrain. [REDACTED] indicated he would look into these matters. (It is my understanding that explicit instructions are in the hands of the field for the packaging of exposed film, manifest to be attached to the can or at least to be included in the same box. I would suggest that failure to meet the procedural instructions may well arise from a failure of field personnel to fully understand the implications and affects which bear upon the seemingly routine matter. Accordingly, I would recommend that it might be very worthwhile for [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

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[REDACTED] to visit active bases and explain the whys involved. In the event, as I gather, sun angle, cloud cover, etc.--essentially track information--has not been made available to [REDACTED] on security grounds, I would doubt that this is wise both because of the seeming adverse affect on the product and the fact that security in regard to handling of this information is fundamentally no different from Eastman's handling of much other information including the deductions they can make once they have seen the exposed film.)

Print Quality

3. EK has rerun prints on 6005 (KLYUCHI) which, when viewed by HTA personnel, were judged a distinct improvement. All of the EK representatives on the occasion of this visit expressed themselves as being unhappy with the original print received from 6005. Considerable progress was achieved by way of illustration and discussion in communicating to relevant personnel at Eastman qualities which should be sought in printing.

4. However, tentative conclusions which I reach, and I believe are shared by others present, are as follows:

a. The printer cannot be expected to make the very rapid calculations and changes required to produce the same type of print from both verticals and obliques and for this reason probably cannot be used for the making of mosaics, this being a mission to be accomplished by LOG-E.

b. Availability of new stereoscopic equipment by Bausch & Lomb (one of which has been received by EK on behalf of HTA) and receipt of additional such machines on order (four) will reduce the need in HTA for scanning and analysis from prints. The addition of PIs to analysis from prints instead of from duplicate

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positives stems principally from the lack of machinery for handling and stereoscopically reading the positive. The advent of this new machine, which provides stereoscopic viewing without cutting, it is anticipated, will go far to re-educate PIs to use transparencies. Meanwhile, however, for HTA purposes, the print remains useful for file, reference, and the initial identification of things requiring further study.

c. Further consultation between PIs and EK workmen from time to time on this subject, I believe, will be required, and I am confident will produce a satisfactory solution to this problem.

Preliminary PI:

5. I informed the Eastman representatives that after further consideration we thought it best not to make provision for preliminary PI work in selected cases immediately after processing of the original negative and titling.

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6. [REDACTED] evidenced some dismay at this announcement which, as the discussion moved on, was explained by the fact that they had looked upon this possibility as a way to bring consumer interest closer to bear upon their technical problems with, they felt sure, the result that they would be better able to meet our needs.

7. Subject to confirmation at Headquarters, we agreed that the most useful and efficient means of meeting preliminary PI when required was as follows: In the case of A 2, after running the original negative, titling, and producing a ^{vertical} duplicate positive, the dupe would be transmitted to HTA where all participating agencies would be invited to join in preliminary PI as they desired. In the case of B configuration, a dupe of the two rolls would be transmitted. Emphasis was placed upon the fact that this dupe would not be corrected for processing errors by Eastman as they normally would do and that, accordingly, this product must be accepted for the purpose intended and for what it was and not become the subject of evaluation of the quality of EK processing.

Titling and Editing:

8. In connection with the previous subject, EK called attention to the profit which they and the product would derive from having on hand

an experienced and capable PI in the early hours of processing original negatives for the reasons that

a. He could advise if indeed any malfunction in printing certain frames in the duplicate positive were of probable important intelligence value and, therefore, ought to be redone

b. To advise with regard to the cutting after titling of the original negative but without destruction of those sections, say fifty frames or more, cloud covered or blanked by virtue of malfunction. It was pointed out that by the knowing procedure outlined and by titling before cutting, there could result significant savings in time, which savings would be multiplied by every additional reproduction and every subsequent handling by all consumers.

c. Advice leading to a clear appreciation by EK workmen of qualities sought in the negative for PI purposes.

We indicated that Headquarters would give this matter careful consideration.

General Comment:

9. One could not escape the sense that EK representatives have keenly felt that Washington was not pleased with their work. One also got the distinct conviction that they welcome any means to adequately satisfy Washington. By the end of the day, I believe, by virtue of our discussion of specific problems, by sincere statements from HTA representatives as to their high regard for a great many materials received, and by virtue of the forward look as to what we can do to move ahead that the feelings alluded to above were assuaged.

Recommendation:

10. That in the very near future an opportunity be provided for a discussion of this memorandum, such discussion to include Mr. Bissell, [REDACTED] the participants in the visit to Eastman, and such others as Mr. Bissell might desire.

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JQR:cw

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